

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1630

PASS LABOR FOR SEC. MARSHALL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO
SUBJ: ILO - GOVERNING BODY (GB) AGREES TO CANCEL MEETING OF WORKING
PARTY ON STRUCTURE

REF: A. GENEVA 1317, B. GENEVA 1568

1. SUMMARY: GB DECIDED BY CONSENSUS TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL
BY OFFICERS OF GB TO CANCEL MEETINGS OF WPS ORIGINALLY
SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE JUNE CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. LATE IN LAST SESSION OF PLENARY GB CONSIDERED
PROPOSAL BY OFFICERS OF GB TO "POSTPONE" PREVIOUSLY
SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF WPS UNTIL LATE IN 1977. DOCUMENT
WHICH OFFICERS PRESENTED TO PLENARY SAID CONSULTATIONS
WITH SOME MEMBERS OF WPS INDICATED THEY FELT LITTLE
COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY MEETING.

3. DURING COFFEEBREAK JUST BEFORE DEBATE BEGAN,
NEGOTIATIONS ON TACTICS WERE HELD BETWEEN YUGOSLAV
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GOVT REP FRENIC, AND USDEL HOROWITZ (PLUS ITALIAN
GOVT REP AGO). FRERRIC INITIALLY WISHED WPS
RATHER THAN GB TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CANCELLING
MEETING. AFTER DISCUSSION, AMENDMENT TO DOCUMENT
WAS AGREED UPON: "GB HAVING CONSIDERED REPORT
OF OFFICERS OF GB (IN THIS DOCUMENT) TAKES NOTE OF
OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN PARA 3 AND DECIDES TO CANCEL

MEETINGS OF WPS WHICH WERE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN NOW AND THE CONFERENCE." (NOTE: THIS LANGUAGE DOES NOT IMPLY WPS WILL CONTINUE BEYOND CONFERENCE.) FRENIC THEN LOBBIED FOR THIS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN AND SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPS. HOROWITZ DISCUSSED PROPOSAL WITH GOVT REPS OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND ALSO WITH WORKER AND EMPLOYER VICE CHAIRMEN.

4. WHEN DEBATE BEGAN, INDIAN GOVT REP OPPOSED PROPOSAL, NOTING DECISION GB TOOK YESTERDAY TO REFER AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17 (WHICH IS IN HANDS OF WPS) TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN JUNE. FRENIC THEN INTRODUCED AMENDMENT (PARA 3 ABOVE) EXPRESSING SIMILAR DISAPPOINTMENT IN CANCELLING WPS BUT NOTING MEMBERS WPS FELT MEETING WOULD BE UNPRODUCTIVE. MOTION TO ACCEPT WAS MADE BY WORKER VICE CHAIRMAN, SECONDED BY MEXICAN GOVT REP, AND SUPPORTED BY EMPLOYER VICE CHAIRMAN. DOUBTS WERE EXPRESSED BY USSR AND SRI LANKA GOVT REPS BUT THEY DID NOT OPPOSE. IRAN GOVT REP AZIMI (CHAIRMAN OF WPS) SUPPORTED MOTION.

5. COMMENT: AS INDICATED IN REFTEL A CANCELLING WPS IS IN USG INTERESTS SINCE IT AVOIDS POSSIBLE MAJOR CONFRONTATION ON DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX STRUCTURE ISSUES PERTAINING TO COMPOSITION OF GB. IN VIEW OF ARTICLE 17 SITUATION (REFTEL B), CANCELLATION OF WPS ALSO PREVENTS WPS FROM DISCUSSING ARTICLE 17 BEFORE CONFERENCE CONSIDERS US PROPOSAL, WHICH IS CONFIDENTIAL

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DEFINITELY TO OUR ADVANTAGE. AS DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY ACrimonious (PARTICULARLY IN VIEW DECISION YESTERDAY ON ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT), DEFUSING EFFORT UNDERTAKEN WHEN OPPORTUNITY DEVELOPED AND WAS SUCCESSFUL. CATTO

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